
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Time: 10:30 a.m.

2017 SOUTHEAST ALASKA EULACHON SMELT FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following closures for eulachon smelt (*Thaleichthys pacificus*) for the 2017 season. These closures will be in effect beginning 12:01 a.m., Friday, February 24, 2017:

District 1: will be closed to commercial, personal use, and subsistence eulachon smelt fishing in all waters. This includes all Revillagigedo Island and mainland drainages.

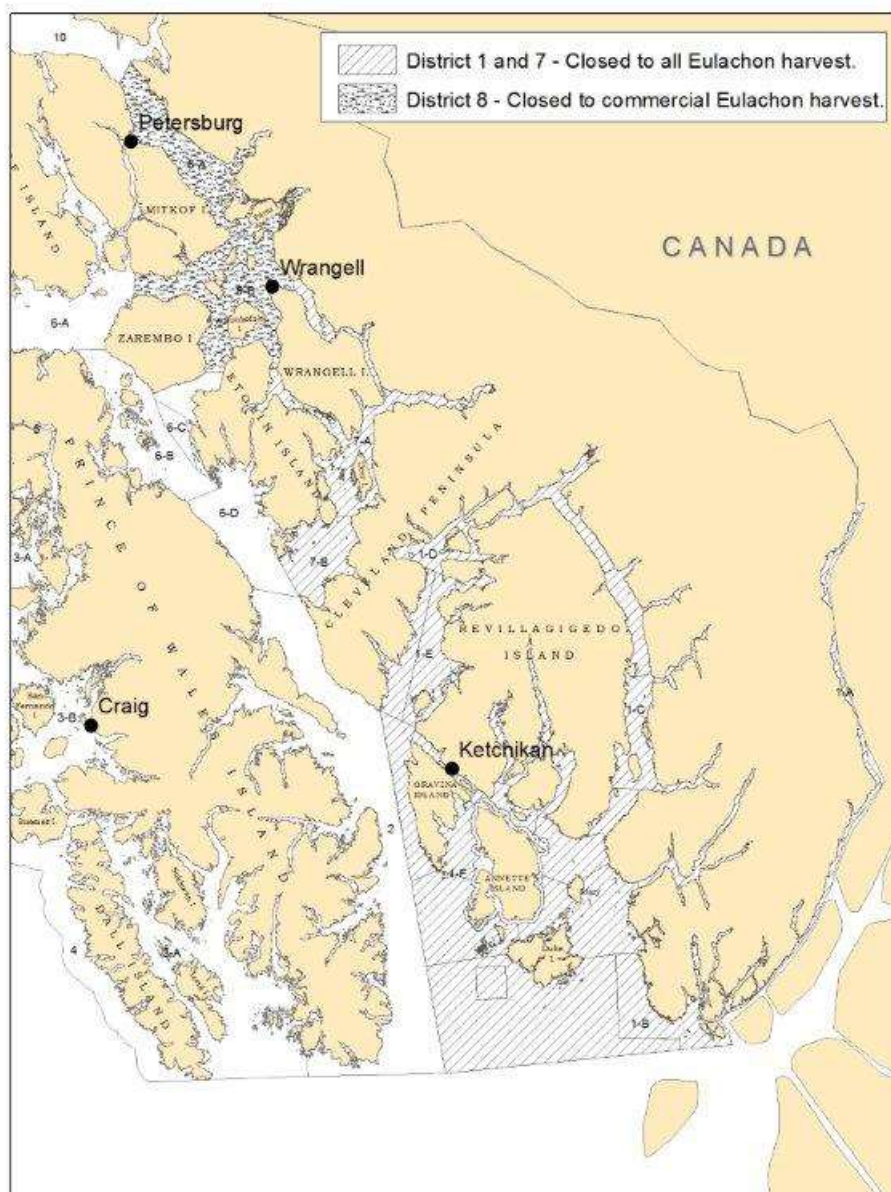
District 7: will be closed to commercial, personal use, and subsistence eulachon smelt fishing in all waters.

District 8: will be closed to commercial eulachon fishing. Subsistence and personal use fishing for eulachon smelt will remain open.

Eulachon smelt spawning runs in the southern portions of Southeast Alaska have had large fluctuations in recent years. Eulachon returns in 2014, 2015, and 2016 varied by area but continue to show poor returns to many areas with traditional runs of eulachon smelt.

Stock status information for each of the above areas is limited and the department feels a conservative approach is necessary for sustaining the health of these stocks.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1H0217.



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